

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF MARINE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TO
ACHIEVE THE STATE'S DECARBONIZATION GOALS.

1 WHEREAS, human activity, particularly the burning of fossil
2 fuels and the concomitant release of carbon dioxide, has
3 catalyzed the effects of climate change; and
4

5 WHEREAS, thirty-four percent of the State's coastlines are
6 vulnerable to intensifying coastal hazards resulting from
7 accelerated sea level rise; and
8

9 WHEREAS, according to a report produced by the Hawaii
10 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea
11 levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent
12 projections showing this sea level rise occurring as early as
13 2060; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the report also found that over the next thirty to
16 seventy years, approximately six thousand five hundred
17 structures, thirty-eight miles of coastal roads, five hundred
18 fifty cultural sites, and at least nineteen thousand eight
19 hundred residents statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding,
20 resulting in an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss; and
21

22 WHEREAS, in response to the growing threat of climate
23 change, the State established standards and implemented
24 initiatives to expand reliance on sustainable and efficient
25 energy, including a statewide benchmark of generating one
26 hundred percent of the State's electricity through renewable
27 sources by 2045; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the State also established a goal to limit
30 greenhouse gas emissions by reducing emissions to at least fifty
31 percent below 2005 levels by 2030; and
32



1 WHEREAS, the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers'
2 Communiqué issued on April 16, 2023, affirmed the importance of
3 nature-based solutions, including marine ecosystem restoration,
4 to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, mitigate the impacts of
5 climate change, and preserve and enhance carbon sinks; and
6

7 WHEREAS, climate researchers have asserted that
8 establishing transparent methods for accounting direct and
9 indirect greenhouse gas emissions is crucial to ensuring
10 consistency, accuracy, and comparability of greenhouse gas
11 emissions data across the public and private sectors; and
12

13 WHEREAS, increasing attention to the potential of carbon
14 sequestration through marine ecosystem restoration and enhancing
15 carbon accounting methodologies for direct and indirect
16 greenhouse gas emissions would help the State meet its clean
17 energy and climate change mitigation goals; now, therefore,
18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that this body affirms the
22 importance of marine ecosystem restoration to achieve the
23 State's decarbonization goals; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body further affirms its
26 commitment to supporting renewable energy and conservation
27 projects that align carbon sequestration with marine ecosystem
28 restoration; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body affirms its
31 commitment to strengthening carbon accounting methodologies to
32 assist in the quantification and reduction of direct and
33 indirect greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions reduction
34 achieved through marine ecosystem restoration; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
38 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Chief



1 Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office, President of
2 the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY:



